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MEMORANDUM

C.M. Smith
From: C.M. Smith, CDR
USCGC WALNUT (WLB-205)

To: COMDT (G-WKW)

Subj: NOMINATION FOR COAST GUARD FS OF THE YEAR

Ref: (a) ALCOAST 393/03

1. IAW reference (a), I hereby nominate Petty Officer First Class Schell as the FS of the year in recognition of his superior performance, customer service, reliability, specialty knowledge, and professionalism. These qualities played a vital role in the unqualified success of Walnut's historic 6-month combat zone deployment in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

2. Walnut is a sea-going buoy tender home ported in Honolulu, HI. The ship is 225' in length and is optimally manned, having a compliment of 43 enlisted crewmembers and eight officers. Walnut's missions include aids to navigation, law enforcement, search and rescue, harbor defense, military readiness, and environmental protection. Walnut's assigned area of responsibility includes all of the Hawaiian Islands and American Samoa; however, our varied missions sometimes take us throughout District 14 and beyond.

a. Support Food Service Healthy Cooking Initiatives: FS1 Schell not only supports healthy cooking initiatives, but also maintains a healthy lifestyle. This includes running, swimming and weight lifting and makes FS1 Schell a role model for other crewmembers to follow. For example, his dedication to exercise and encouragement assisted a FS2 in quitting smoking, getting in shape, and subsequently passing the rigorous dive school physical.

FS1 always ensures that the food line has several options at all meals to accommodate crewmembers with specific preferences. This includes non-red meats, vegetables, rice, a salad bar, fruit, low fat dressings, and toppings. This makes it possible for the crew to eat a variety of foods, ranging from a low fat salad, to a healthy mix of protein and vegetables. FS1 Schell also provides the crew with healthy snacks. During the workday, both inport and underway, the mess deck always has a bowl of fruit for the crew.

FS1 Schell supports the Coast Guard's healthy cooking initiative by personally attending, along with the two other FSs onboard WALNUT, the annual Nutritional Cooking and FSAT Sanitation and Cooking training. This gets the duty cooks excellent training in specialty cooking, as well as healthy cooking, sanitation, and general administration and paperwork. In addition, he coordinated securing the galley for a deck replacement to occur during the Nutritional Cooking course. This maximized the attendance of all of our FSs at the training.

b. Customer Focus, Relations, and Education: FS1 Schell's cordial and personable demeanor results in outstanding working relations with the crew. For example, he worked closely with the engineers to make several changes to the galley, food line, and drink line. FS1 most recently coordinated the purchase of a soft serve ice cream dispenser to serve low fat ice cream. This took the place of a slushy machine that he had obtained for our Iraq deployment but proved not popular enough to keep. In addition, he worked with the XO and EO to schedule the serving line and scullery deck replacement, and leveraged the long galley-secured period to send his FS3 to the 30-day Navy Dive School. The FS3 is now a fully qualified member of our ATON Dive Team and will play a key continuation role during AY04 when the rest of the Dive Team rotates PCS.

FS1 also aggressively works to send his subordinates to "C" schools to expand their professional knowledge. For example, he wanted to send his FS2 to Baking school, so he leveraged his local FS network to get a TAD replacement from the ISC Galley. This ensured a career opportunity for the FS2 while ensuring no loss in service to the crew. FS1 also worked with the XO in requesting and obtaining a TAD FS for the first leg of our transit to the Persian Gulf, allowing our FS3 to be at home for the birth of his daughter.

FS1 Schell always seeks input from the crew and wardroom before purchasing food. He is responsive to requests for particular menu items from the crew and incorporates input from the crew when planning menus.

While underway, FS1 Schell makes the galley available to provide crew-cooked food for morale events. His flexibility and positive attitude make these meals fun for everyone. This was especially true during our long deployment. For example, when the Navy delivered 6 cases instead of 6 boxes of chicken nuggets during a portcall in Bahrain, FS1 worked with the Morale Officer to coordinate a chicken-wing eating contest to thin our supplies while also providing a good laugh for the crew.

c. Command and Community Relations: FS1 Schell displayed extensive knowledge of rate, allowing Walnut to operate above and beyond its normal limitations, helping to sustain Walnut's crew during an extended war zone deployment to Iraq. This involved working with the Navy, Coast Guard, and private foreign vendors to resupply the ship during Walnut's infrequent and short port calls and stocking the ship for extended underway periods with often unknown future replenishment dates. FS1 Schell willingly worked overtime inport during his liberty time to coordinate the loading of stores. His dedication ensured our readiness for future extended operations, including one 4-week underway period without resupply, well beyond the rated endurance of a 225 WLB. This 4-week period occurred during the outbreak of hostilities with Iraq, and due to the sporadic missile attacks on Kuwait, Walnut was unable to moor at Kuwait Naval Base. Other Coalition vessels were able to conduct underway replenishments for stores, but Walnut is not configured to do so.

Recognizing the need to feed our boarding team members during day-long boardings of container ships, FS1 researched and ordered MREs. Working with Headquarters, he discovered that MREs are paid for with AFC-30 funds and not with galley funds as other cutters were doing. This saved the galley a significant amount of money.

FS1 always remained flexible, and ensured that the galley remained open during operations to ensure all were fed. For example, when Walnut rescued 8 PSU boat crewmembers who were caught in a storm off of an Iraqi offshore oil platform at night, FS1 ensured that they were fully fed. FS1 also ensured our crew was fed during Walnut's 3 week operation to replace all 35 buoys in Iraq's 40-mile Khawr 'Abd Allāh river, oftentimes extending lunch or serving early in between buoys. His flexibility and that of the rest of the crew ensured that the river was quickly marked and opened for military ships and vital humanitarian supplies.

A proud Coast Guardsman, FS1 signed up to be interviewed by his hometown newspaper. He stuck to the talking points and avoided questions involving OPSEC, resulting in an outstanding interview (enclosure 1) that increased local awareness of our many missions in the Persian Gulf.

Throughout the period, FS1 Schell stayed ahead of the hectic and often unpredictable schedule in the Persian Gulf, showing no signs of stress and no loss of productivity during extended and various operations, acting as an example for others to follow. His close working relationship with the FSDO and knowledge of galley administration and finance helped to smooth out the process of procuring food and provisions from foreign vendors in Singapore, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Australia.

He also used his specialty knowledge to procure different and interesting foods from foreign ports to give the crew a more interesting choice of meals. For example, in Australia, he purchased crocodile and kangaroo meat for the return trip to homeport. FS1 Schell worked closely with Australian vendors to ensure proper payment and that Walnut was fully stocked for its 16-day, 4000-mile transit to homeport, the longest non-stop transit *ever* for a 225' WLB. During the transit, when Walnut took on water in rough seas into a dry stores area damaging \$4700 worth of food, FS1 researched and submitted surveys to ensure that the galley didn't have to "eat" the cost of the food. He also gained approval for a survey of \$3000 worth of expensive Persian Gulf meat that was beyond its expiration date. His efforts ensured that galley finances remained solvent.

Upon return to homeport from our Operation IRAQI FREEDOM deployment, FS1 worked closely with the Department of Agriculture to determine the regulations regarding our foreign foods on hand. He also sought permission for and coordinated the closure of the galley for the first week of the 30-day post-deployment stand down to ensure time off for the other cooks. FS1 also coordinated the closure of the galley for 5 weeks during drydock. Faced with excessive costs in re-establishing the galley, he researched and discovered an entitlement for a 10% upgrade for the basic daily allowance food scale. FS1 Schell also reestablished contracts with Prime Vendors during the period, saving considerable money in food expenditures allowing for higher quality food for the crew. He also consistently submits timely and accurate paperwork pertaining to the galley.

FS1 Schell's professionalism is evident by looking at his last two sets of marks. In May he received marks of "7" in the Professional Knowledge, Stamina, and Health & Well-Being dimensions and received marks of "6" in 10 of the remaining 19 performance factors. In November he received marks of "7" in Professional Knowledge and Health & Well-Being and marks of "6" in 8 of the remaining 20 performance factors. FS1 Schell's professional knowledge also directly led to his being selected as Runner Up Coast Guard-wide for the

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2002 FS Of The Year Award, where he was commended for his professionalism and that he put the "specialist" back in food service.

d. Personal Development: As noted in sections (a) and (b), FS1 Schell strives to improve both himself and his subordinates personally and professionally. Despite being away from homeport for 6 months this year, he still managed to arrange for "C" school and other training. In addition to formal training off the ship, FS1 Schell selflessly strives to improve his subordinates by training them on galley administration and paperwork. His direct involvement also greatly assisted the FS3 in quickly making FS2. FS1 Schell also dealt with the personal issues of a subordinate and tried to help him decide to stay in the Coast Guard.

While the deployment to the Persian Gulf may have limited formal educational opportunities, the on-the-job training that FS1 and his subordinates gained in dealing with foreign vendors, paying cash for stores via the Imprest Fund, money exchange rate issues, and utilizing the Navy's supply system in a wartime environment cannot be overemphasized.

To improve himself physically, FS1 Schell works out almost everyday and maintains a healthy and physically fit appearance. Through his pursuit of physical fitness he encourages others to follow his example. Even during the high optempo of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, FS1 made time to exercise every day, either in Walnut's gym or out jogging while inport in Umm Qasr, Iraq. His dedication to exercise and encouragement assisted a FS2 in quitting smoking, getting in shape, and subsequently passing the rigorous dive school physical.

e. Collateral Duties: During military operations in the Persian Gulf, FS1 effectively balanced his galley responsibilities with other duties. He served as a member of the boarding team, ran the galley as FSO, cooked midrats every night, stood Inport OOD, and voluntarily served as the Navy Motion Picture Service (NMPS) officer.

More specifically, he displayed outstanding stamina as a boarding team member, enforcing United Nations Security Council Resolutions aboard vessels in and out bound Iraq. This included extended boardings of container ships that lasted all day, and then returning to the ship to willingly cook midrats later that night without complaint. As Inport OOD, he stood a 1 in 3 watch rotation, overseeing the stepped-up armed inport watch in high threat ports in Iraq, Bahrain, Singapore and Kuwait. FS1 Schell also demonstrated outstanding accountability as the NMPS officer, ensuring the accountability of over 300 movies.

FS1 Schell also displayed excellent specialty knowledge in damage control. He played an active role in the repair locker, serving as Attack Team leader and On Scene Leader and also voluntarily uses his expertise in damage control to train newer crewmembers. He does an outstanding job training and qualifying the crew in damage control PQS and Quarterdeck watch standing. FS1 Schell teaches, tests, and qualifies members, requiring of them a solid working knowledge of the subject matter.

Overall, FS1 Schell's knowledge well beyond his rate helped Walnut, with an optimally manned crew, to effectively engage in high tempo multi-mission operations throughout our war zone deployment. His can-do spirit was also embodied by the rest of the crew and was the key factor in Walnut's outstanding success as described in enclosure (2).

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3. I highly recommend FS1 Schell for this year's Coast Guard FS of the Year Award.

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Encl: (1) St. Clair News-Aegis article dtd 27 March 03
(2) Coast Guard Unit Commendation dtd 12 June 03